



587
December
2013

HF Happenings

South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iau.org www.iau-r1.org



ICASA Extends the SARL 5 MHz License

ICASA has extended the South African Radio League 5 MHz license till the end of January 2014. This follows South African Radio League application for ICASA to review the license and grant facilities up to at least the start of the WRC 2015. Currently the South African Radio League holds a pilot license for 5 250 and 5 260 kHz. While the South African Radio League applied for extension of the license for a further period it also appealed to the Chairperson of ICASA, Dr Stephen Mnube, to consider issuing the SARL with a long term authority to use these two frequencies to continue propagation research till at least the WRC-15 conference.

The South African Radio League is currently analysing the results of the special weekend 5 MHz activity event held in early November. The winner of the lucky draw is Barry Nugent, ZS2NF. Congratulations Barry!

The first study using the SANSA ionosonde network has been published and is available for download from www.sarl.org.za, click on propagation research and follow the links.

DXpedition of the Year Poll

The DX World.net 2013 DXpedition of the Year poll is now open at <http://dx-world.net/>. "What a great 2013 it's been for DXpeditions. The team at DX World found it incredibly difficult to agree and list the final 25 DXpeditions. Also, this year, unlike the last two years, we are limiting the votes to only two per person. We believe this to be fair considering it could be that you have an absolute favourite DXpedition, followed by a second, which perhaps helped fill those important band points". The outcome will be available immediately after the poll closes, i.e. at 21:00 UTC on 6 January 2014 - cast your votes!

CDXC DX Marathon Challenge

Starting in 2014, and running from 1 January to 31 December each year the Chiltern DX Club DX Marathon Challenge is an annual competition open to any licensed amateur world-wide.

However, only fully paid up members of the Chiltern DX Club (www.cdxc.org.uk) are eligible to receive Awards. Its purposes are to promote DXing and recognise achievement in DXing over the year, and to promote the uploading of logs to Club Log (which leads to better statistical information for us all).

Detailed information can be found on the Chiltern DX Club's website (navigate from Home page > CDXC Awards > DX Marathon).

World Wide Iron Ham Contest

Inspired by the Ironman sport event the Araucaria DX Group is inviting all amateurs to their 2nd Iron Ham Contest on 28 and 29 December, running for 24 hours using all three major modes, CW, SSB, and RTTY in 8

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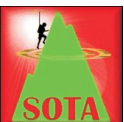
Have **YOU** done
anything today to
Promote
Amateur Radio?

December

1 - Advent; SARL Digital Contest; World Aids Day
3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
4 - All schools close
14 and 15 - ARRL 10 metre contest
16 - Day of Reconciliation
21 - Summer Solstice
25 - Christmas Day
26 - Day of Goodwill

January

1 - New Years Day; start of ARRL Centennial QSO Party; Start of 2014 CQ Marathon
11 and 12 - Hunting Lions -in-the-Air
13 - SARL Office opens
15 - All schools open
17 to 19 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest
25 - Summer QRP Contest



Current Summits-on-the-Air (SOTA) activities are announced at www.sotawatch.org
And more SOTA information can be found at www.sota.org.uk



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hour sessions. This year's winner in the Single Op All Band category and one operator of the winning Multi Op team will be awarded free trips to next year's WRTC. The contest committee recommends the following software for this contest:

N1MM - WWIH Contest; TR4W - WWIH (World Wide Iron Ham Contest) download or TR4W_setup_244c_mmtty.zip <http://tr4w.com/download/mmtty>
<http://www.ironham.com.br/>
http://www.ironham.com.br/arquivos/IRON_HAM_CONTEST_ENGLISH.pdf

African Island DX

Amsterdam Island, FT5Z, (Press Release: 21 December 2013): "Amsterdam Island DXpedition - All the equipment the Amsterdam Island DXpedition team shipped to New Zealand is now aboard the MV Braveheart. All our documentation - sanitation inspections, hull inspections, de-ratting certification, and bio-security clearance - has been completed.

The vessel will be fuelled for its voyage to Australia on 23 December. On 24 December, fresh produce for the initial voyage will be taken aboard. The crew will celebrate Christmas Day at home with their families and then on 26 December at 14:00 local time, during high slack water, the vessel will sail for Fremantle, Australia.

The Braveheart will sail around the north cape of New Zealand's north island, across the Tasman Sea, across the Great Australian Bight, and up the west coast of Australia to the port of Fremantle. Additional provisions will be taken aboard in Australia and the vessel will be re-fuelled for the voyage to Amsterdam Island and back.

FT5ZM team members will begin arriving in Fremantle on 9 January. There will be team meetings, toasts, and shopping trips. Our good VK6 friends have acquired some additional supplies for us and we will take these aboard. The team will board the Braveheart on 14 January, configure our maritime mobile station, and sail for Amsterdam Island on 15 January.

You will likely hear from us one more time before we leave our respective countries and fly to Australia. However, as always, thank you to the amateur and DX community for your support and interest. Visit our website frequently for late breaking news and updates. We've not yet reached our financial goals, but with your continued support, that goal is in sight.

73 - Ralph - KOIR"

Zanzibar, 5H, IOTA AF-032. Vittorio, I2GPT, will be active from Zanzibar AF-032, from 4 to 12 January 2014, as 5H1VC. Activity will be holiday style operation, mode CW and RTTY, especially in the early morning and late afternoon. QSL via RW6HS, direct or bureau. Web site www.i2gpt.com

Zanzibar, 5H, AF-032. A group of Italian operators will be active as 5I0DX and 5H3AN from an Italian village on the beach of Kiwengwea on Zanzibar Island (WWF 5HFF-003) between 1 and 10 February 2014.

Activity will be on all HF bands, including the 30/17/12 meter bands, using SSB, PSK and RTTY. Operators mentioned are Fred, IK7JWX, Leopoldo, I8LWL, Stefano, IK6JRI, Ciclane, IZ6JOD (YL),

Ampelio/ISOAGY, Vincenzo/IZ8LFI and Elvira/IV3FSG (YL). More details and a Web page will be announced. It was announced earlier that this DXpedition will also be a humanitarian operation with donations of medicines to the "Italy Day Hospital". QSL via IK7JWX, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

They are looking for sponsors for donations to Radio Club of Tanzania and Italy Day Hospital of Zanzibar: 1/2 Poste Pay Card (Visa Electron) nr. 4023600649350826 to Alfredo De Nisi - Vico della Cavallerizza, 4/ D-73100 LECCE.

Gabon, TR. Thorbjorn "Thor", SM7RME, was once again active as TROA/p from Port Gentil, Mandji Island (AF-089). Most of his activity has been on 17 and 10 metres CW. However, by the time you read this, Thor should

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be QRT. If you missed him, Thor informs that he will return in 2014 and will put up a log-periodic yagi, so then he will be active on 20 to 10 metres. QSL via SM7EHU.

Tromelin 2014. Most of the DXers consider entities as check boxes to tick once the country is worked and confirmed. That's the game! However, we hope to bring you a lot more than just a simple check mark as you discover our next destination.

Let's talk about the 9th most wanted DXCC entity according to the Clublog statistics, an empty box for 75% of the amateur radio community.

Tromelin, as well as Glorioso, Juan de Nova, Europa, belongs to the 'Eparses', a French word to name these small islands scattered around Madagascar. These French territories are administered by the TAAF (Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises).

Their access is strictly controlled and regulated in particular for ecological reasons. Tromelin is the smallest one (1 square km) and the human impact is all the more sensitive. That's the only island where there are no French military troops and only 2 agents of the TAAF are posted there continuously.

The last operation took place in 2000. A 4 men team made 50,000 contacts with the callsign FR/F6KDF/T. No authorization has been given ever since. 2014 will be the 60th anniversary of the 1st hamradio activity from Tromelin. The operator was Marc FB8BK/T.

Today, after some successful collaborative work with the TAAF authorities, we are proud to announce that we received our landing permission and got the green light to conduct an amateur radio operation on this remote island.

We'll be active on Tromelin from 30 October to 10 November 2014. six operators have been allowed to stay of the island. They have been selected for their experience and all six are ready to face the challenge. The team is made up of SEB, F5UFX, Michel, FM5CD, Flo, F5CWU, Eric, F5SIH, Franck, F4AJQ, and Fred, F5ROP.

The request is huge and we are conscious of this. For this reason, we are working hard in order to prepare our operation in depth. Some places in the world will have short openings and we'll do our best to exploit these short moments with proper planning adjusted with the help of pilots.

The coming months will be devoted to the search of sponsors. We already have part of the equipment but partnership with equipment suppliers will be essential. On the other hand, we will contact foundations, clubs, organizations to request assistance to help us balance our budget, estimated at \$90,000, most of which is devoted to logistic costs.

Our website is online. All details regarding the progress, plans of the DXpedition and sponsorship opportunities will be accessible through dedicated pages, visit <http://www.tromelin2014.com>

We will regularly keep updating you until our departure, Team Tromelin 2014, Seb, F5ufx, leader@tromelin2014.com

Tristan Da Cunha, ZD9. Members of the Italian DXpedition Team (IDT) have announced their next DXpedition. The IDT will go to Tristan da Cunha (AF-029) and be active as ZD9TT sometime between the period of September - October 2015. Their Web page states, "The DXpedition will last a total of five weeks, of which two for travel and the middle three for operation. The main aim of the DXpedition will be to work the greatest possible number of unique calls, thus offering a possibility also to Little Pistols and QRP stations. All bands will be activated on CW and SSB, but RTTY operations will be confined to the 14 MHz band." For more details and updates, visit <http://www.i2ysb.com/idt>. Also, visit their forum on <http://www.hamradioweb.org/forums/>

Annobon Island and Equatorial Guinea, 3C0 & 3C4. Elmo, EA5BYP, is planning a trip to Annobon Island (AF-039) to be active as 3COBYP, and a trip to Bioko Island (AF-010), Equatorial Guinea, to be active as 3C4BYP. Specific dates have not been announced yet, but the operations will happen soon. Stay tuned! QSL via his home call sign.



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African DX

Kenya, 5Z. Marc, ON4EZ, will be active as 5Z4/homecall from between 22 December and 6 January. No other details were provided.



Lesotho, 7P. DK3ID/OE8IDK, will be active as 7P8ID from Lesotho between 11 and 16 February. Activity will be on 40 - 6 metres SSB using 100 watts. QSL via DK3ID or OE8IDK direct.

Mozambique, C9. Karl, ZS6ALB, is once again active as C91KHN from Mozambique. The length of his stay is not known at this time. Activity has been on 10 and 6 metres. He was using his new contest call sign C91C in the 10 meter contest last weekend. QSL via his home call sign direct (preferred). Log will be uploaded to LoTW and ClubLog.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 23 to 30 December 2013

Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party
00:01 UTC 21 December to 23:59 UTC 1 January

Mode: Any

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Members: Member no, name and state, province or country; Non-Members: Serial no, name and state, province or country; Lighthouse/Lightship: ARHLS no, name and state, province or country

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; 2 additional points per QSO with member; 3 additional points per QSO with lighthouse/lightship; Bonus: x2 multiplier for all points if participant activated a lighthouse/lightship

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Mail logs to: Dave Ruch, NF0J, PO Box 20696, Bloomington, MN 55420-0696, USA

Find rules at: <http://arlhs.com/LCL-2013.html>

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (total DOK/Special Station mults and total prefix mults)

Submit logs by: 14 January 2014

E-mail logs to: xmas@dxhf.darc.de

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/xmas/en/rules/>

NCCC Sprint

02:15 - 03:00 UTC 27 December

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 29 December 2013

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at: <http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

DARC Christmas Contest

08:30 - 10:59 UTC 26 December

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op Mixed - low or high; Single Op CW - low or high

Max operating hours: 2,5 hours

Max power: HP: >100 W; LP: <=100 W

Exchange: DL: RS(T) and DOK (or Special Station abbreviation); non-DL: RS(T) and QSO no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point

Multipliers: DOK/Special Stations, once per band; Prefixes, once per band

RAC Winter Contest

00:00 - 23:59 UTC 28 December

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op CW; Single Op Phone; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single - low or high; Multi-Multi

Max operating hours: 24 hours

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: VE: RS(T) and province or territory; non-VE and VE0: RS(T) and serial no

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QSO Points: VE/VEO: 10 points; non-VE/VEO: 2 points; RAC official stations: 20 points

Multipliers: VE provinces and territories (13), once per mode per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 January 2014

E-mail logs to: canadawinter@rac.ca

Mail logs to: Radio Amateurs of Canada, 720 Belfast Road, Suite 217, Ottawa, Ontario K1G 0Z5, Canada

Find rules at: <https://www.rac.ca/en/rac/programmes/contests/files/2013%20Winter%20Contest%20Rules%20and%20Entry%20Form%20-%20English-French.pdf>

World Wide Iron Ham Contest

12:00 UTC 28 December to 11:59 UTC 29 December

Mode: CW, Phone, RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band; Multi-Operator Two Transmitter

Max operating hours: 8 hours per mode in periods no shorter than one hour each

Max power: 1 500 watts

Exchange: RS(T) and CQ Zone

Work stations: Once per mode per band

QSO Points: 1 point QSO with same DXCC entity; 2 points per QSO with same continent, different DXCC entity; 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each DXCC entity once per mode; Each CQ zone once per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = sum of mode scores (total QSO mode points x total mode mults)

Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC January 1, 2014

E-mail logs to: wwih@araucariadx.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.araucariadx.com/ih/IRON_HAM_CONTEST_ENGLISH.pdf

Original QRP Contest

15:00 UTC 28 December to 15:00 UTC 29 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20 m

Classes: Single Op - VLP, QRP or MP - handmade or open

Max operating hours: 15 hours

Max power: VLP: 1 W; QRP: 5 W; MP: 20 W

Exchange: RST, serial no and "/" and Power category

QSO Points: QSO with station who submits log: 4 points; QSO with station that does not submit log: 1

point; 15% bonus for use of TR/TRX assembled from kit; 30% bonus for use of unique handmade TR/TRX

Multipliers: DXCC Countries: 2 mult points if station submits log, 1 mult point if no log

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mult points

Submit logs by: 31 January 2014

E-mail logs to: ogrpc@grpcc.de

Mail logs to: Lutz Gutheil, DL1RNN, Bergstrasse 17, D -38446 Wolfsburg, Germany

Find rules at: <http://www.grpcc.de/contestrules/ogrp.html>

Stew Perry Topband Challenge

15:00 UTC 28 December to 15:00 UTC 29 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op

Max operating hours: 14 hours

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 5 - 100 watts; QRP: <5 watts

Exchange: 4-Character grid square

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO plus 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station

Multipliers: Low power: x 1.5; QRP: x 3

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x power multiplier

Submit logs by: 13 January 2014

E-mail logs to: tbd@contesting.com

Mail logs to: BARC, 15125 SE Bartell Rd, Boring, OR 97009, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.kkn.net/stew/>

RAEM Contest

00:00 - 11:59 UTC 29 December

Mode: CW

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; SWL

Exchange: Serial No. and latitude (degs only) and longitude (degs only) N = North, S = South, W = West, O = East (e.g. 57N 85O)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 50 points and 1 point for every degree difference in geo location, both latitude and longitude; QSO with Polar station: 100 points additional; QSO with RAEM Memorial Station: 300 points additional

Multipliers: Polar stations multiply total QSO points by 1.1

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Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 28 January 2014

E-mail logs to: raem@srr.ru

Upload log at: <http://www.logs.raem.srr.ru/>

Mail logs to: Alex Pashkov, PO Box 177, Novosibirsk 630032, Russia

Find rules at: http://raem.srr.ru/contest/raem_2013/rules_eng_2013.php

Next weeks contests

AGB New Year Snowball Contest, 00:00 UTC-01:00 UTC 1 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 1 January
SARTG New Year RTTY Contest, 08:00 UTC-11:00 UTC 1 January
AGCW Happy New Year Contest, 09:00 UTC-12:00 UTC 1 January
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 3 January
NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 UTC-03:00 UTC 3 January
PODXS 070 Club PSKFest, 00:00 UTC-24:00 UTC 4 January
WW PMC Contest, 12:00 UTC 4 January to 12:00 UTC 5 January
QRP ARCI Pet Rock Sprint, 15:00 UTC-18:00 UTC 4 January
ARRL RTTY Roundup, 18:00 UTC 4 January to 24:00 UTC 5 January
EUCW 160m Contest, 20:00 UTC-23:00 UTC 4 January and 04:00 UTC-07:00 UTC 5 January
Kid's Day Contest, 18:00 UTC-23:59 UTC 5 January

History this week - starting 23 December

1 - 1st Christmas, according to calendar-maker Dionysius Exiguus
337 - Earliest possible date that Christmas was celebrated on 25 December
352 - 1st definite date Christmas was celebrated on 25 December
597 - England adopted the Julian calendar. In the year 46 BC, Julius Caesar reformed the Roman calendar
1724 - The Russian Academy of Sciences was founded in St. Petersburg by Peter the Great
1750 - Benjamin Franklin was severely shocked while electrocuting a turkey
1831 - Charles Darwin set sail from Plymouth harbour on his voyage of scientific discovery aboard the HMS Beagle
1889 - A bicycle with a back-pedal brake was patented by Daniel Stover and William Hance of Freeport, Ill
1893 - Henry Ford completed his first useful gas motor
1898 - Polish-French scientist Marie Skłodowska Curie discovered the radioactive element radium
1904 - The first weather reports relayed by wireless telegraphy were published in London
1906 - Reginald A. Fessenden gave what is generally considered to be the first broadcast of entertainment by radio
1906 - The world's first full-length feature film, the 70-min "Story of the Kelly Gang" was presented in the Town Hall at Melbourne
1952 - The first transistor hearing aid went on sale, the model 1010 manufactured by the Sonotone Corp



The HF Happenings team wishes you a prosperous 2014, may the year be filled with good health, success and Our Lord's Blessing



Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC News